

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 079931  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:WMWOESSNER:EM  
APPROVED BY EUR:JEGOODBY  
EUR/CE:ELAUDERDALE  
EUR/WE:JDOBBINS  
S/S-O:RCASTRODALE  
EUR:RDVINE

-----017863 290308Z /70

R 290144Z MAR 78 ZFF6  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
WHITE HOUSE 0007  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T STATE 079931

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, FR, GW

SUBJECT: FRENCH DISTRESS OVER OTRAG

REF; PARIS 09555

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1. WE APPRECIATE REFTEL REPORTING "KEEN ATTENTION"  
DEVOTED TO OTRAG BY SENIOR FRENCH OFFICIALS AND THEIR  
CONTINUING ANXIETY. WHEN AMB. DE LABOULAYE CALLED ON  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST JANUARY 19, HE VOICED HIS PRO-  
FOUND PERSONAL SUSPICIONS ABOUT WHAT THE GERMANS WERE UP  
TO WITH OTRAG. MORE RECENTLY, GENERAL MERY REQUESTED  
AND RECEIVED FROM GENERAL BROWN A DIA APPRAISAL, DATED  
FEB. 17, 1978, OF OTRAG'S ACTIVITIES. THE APPRAISAL,  
BASED IN LARGE PART ON STATE REPORTS, CONTAINED NOTHING

TO EXACERBATE FRENCH CONCERNS-- ON THE CONTRARY -- BUT THE FACT THAT IT WAS REQUESTED SHOWS THAT THE ANXIETIES REPORTED REFTEL ARE BY NO MEANS CONFINED TO THE ELYSEE.

2. IT IS NOT ACCURATE TO SAY, AS ELYSEE SOURCE DID (PARA FOUR REFTEL), THAT US REPS TEND TO BE "SURE" OF INNOCENCE OF OTRAG'S ACTIVITIES. USG SIMPLY HAS NO EVIDENCE THAT OTRAG IS OTHER THAN WHAT IT PURPORTS TO BE OR THAT FRG IS USING OTRAG FOR SOME SINISTER PURPOSE. WE ARE OF

COURSE KEEPING CLOSE WATCH ON DEVELOPMENTS, AND WILL, AS APPROPRIATE, SHARE INFORMATION WITH OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS.

3. FYI - WE ARE FRANKLY CONCERNED THAT REPEATED VOICING OF FRENCH SUSPICIONS AND SPECULATIONS REGARDING OTRAG AROUND THE DIPLOMATIC CIRCUIT COULD UNINTENTIONALLY REFLECT NEGATIVELY ON THE COHESION OF THE ALLIANCE AND THE STATE OF FRENCH-FRG RELATIONS.

4. ACTION: EMBASSY SHOULD SUGGEST TO ELYSEE SOURCE THAT, IF FRENCH REMAIN CONCERNED, THEY MIGHT WISH TO APPROACH THE FRG DIRECTLY FOR A THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF OTRAG. EMBASSY MAY ADD THAT WE HAVE RAISED WITH FRG  
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EMBASSY HERE IN LOW-KEY MANNER THE UTILITY OF PAYING GREATER ATTENTION TO THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECTS OF OTRAG'S ACTIVITIES. IN ORDER TO REASSURE THOSE CONCERNED REGARDING THE NATURE OF OTRAG'S ACTIVITIES. COOPER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** MISSILE SITES, SPACE PROGRAMS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CAT-B  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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